

Take care and look out for your mates

by Marcus Mantschiff,
Nimbin CDAT Co-ordinator

A hearty THANK-YOU goes out to Joe Gormley from NSW Health for the Nimbin Community Drugs Action Team Intensive he facilitated on 13th December. Students at Nimbin Central School subjected Joe to the rigors of youth question time.

The Drugs & Community Action Strategy Project Officer reported that all students were aware of the party drug scene and drew on personal experiences for question time. He was impressed by the body of knowledge which existed amongst Nimbin youth and the sense of responsibility in their questions.

Following two information sessions for different age-groups at the school, it was straight to the Nimbin Museum for a public information session on poly-drug use. The NCDA catered for a BBQ feed as Nimbin residents, homeless and visitors to town listened to Joe deliver a detailed presentation of poly-drug use & binge drinking outcomes & statistics. The principal message from CDAT for the Christmas party season was to take care and look out for your mates.

Thanks to the Aquarius Bakery, Nimbin Village Butcher, Fun Fruits and



Hard worker. Joe Gormley ending up a long day in Nimbin with a presentation at the CDAT BBQ outside the Museum.

the Hemp Embassy for contributing to the success of this event. Support from the local business community in Nimbin for these CDAT (and similar) events goes a long way stretching the dollar value of limited government funding.

The next CDAT event will be a Beach Youth Camp in early March. Trained facilitators will be delivering a two day Conflict Resolution & Anger Management package. This activity-based training will give Nimbin youth the skills to identify and better manage volatile situations which affect themselves and their peers. Conflict resolution and anger management are valuable skills and offer strong,

character building outcomes.

Expressions of interest need to be directed to Marcus (Nimbin Community Centre, phone 6689-0000), Nigel Hayes (Nimbin Headers phone 6689-1352) or Lizette Twisleton (Men's & Family Centre phone 0429-363-850). This collaborative event between Nimbin CDAT, the Men's & Family Centre, Community Connections, Lismore City Council's Youth Activities and the NCDA is focused on youth outcomes which benefit the greater community.

Watch this space for future CDAT activities which will include Event Management Training & Peer Support packages.

Happy Birthday, Lulu!



Lulu from FunFruits' 50th birthday party was a family-friendly event.

Victory at Montreal

Climate Campaigners Achieve Their Greatest Success Ever

by Dr. Glen Barry,
ClimateArk

The global movement to stabilise climate scored its greatest success to date during the Montreal climate conference in December, attended by representatives of 180 countries. Real and substantial progress to establish mechanisms to regulate greenhouse gases. demanded by the climate change movement, were in fact approved, despite tremendous pressure by the Bush regime.

Kyoto Treaty members - all the industrialised countries apart from the US and Australia - have agreed in principle to make deeper cuts in the pollution emissions causing climate change, extending their present commitments beyond 2012. In order to ensure continuity of carbon markets they have agreed to negotiate these cuts by 2008, much faster than expected.

Meanwhile the US (against its will), along with China and India, have agreed to non-binding talks on new measures that all nations can take on combating the threat posed by climate change. The resolution is vague and the talks are only "open and non-binding", but it is far more than the US wanted or most people expected.

A proposal by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica was approved which will allow

developing nations to receive financial compensation from richer countries for agreeing to preserve their rainforests. The conference also adopted the Kyoto rule book, formally making the protocol operational.

Environmentalists hailed the agreement, which exceeded the most optimistic expectations, as "historic".

The Kyoto mechanisms are not perfect. Clearly the hard part of all nations negotiating sizeable yet equitable reductions in emissions sufficient to stabilize the global atmosphere remains ahead. But the mechanisms for establishing, implementing, monitoring and extending emission reductions are in place.

Economic restructuring on the scale required by climate change -- which touches every aspect of our lives including transportation, housing and food -- is going to happen in an untidy manner, with fits and spurts of progress, and against great obstacles. It is not practicable to expect the world to immediately end greenhouse gas emissions, no matter how desirable and necessary it may be.

Kyoto is the only game in town to achieve climate stabilization, other than a complete collapse of the global economic system (which will occur if international policy-making fails), to bring greenhouse gas emissions in line with

the carrying capacity of the Earth. Successful climate change policy-making is going to require incremental, steady and accelerating change; heralded into being by radical protest in support of truly adequate policies based upon scientific requirements for global ecological sustainability. As climate change impacts accumulate, humanity will not be starting from scratch as it scrambles to survive.

Ancient forest logging could be ended now with minimal economic disruption, and should be to ensure large contiguous forests required for global ecological sustainability continue to exist. Doing so would not result in comparable immediate economic hardship, and compensation for the disruption that would occur is feasible and affordable. For example, the new carbon monies that can now flow into tropical rainforest shrouded countries may change tropical rainforest timber markets - helping to make standing forests more valuable than their logs.

Different climate and rainforest ecological and economic realities and necessities require different strategies, tactics and timetables. Yet both must be ecological science based and willing to embrace radical solutions; providing the highest quality, truly sufficient, policy responses.

You don't have to be a wrinkly!

Open Learning Centre for Nimbin

Have you ever been tempted by a course with the 50+ Learning Centre but you were waiting till you turned 50 before enrolling? Now there's no need to wait. The Learning Centre has expanded and will be open to all, regardless of age.

The new Open Learning Centre will continue to offer the interesting range of courses which includes Gentle Yoga, Tai Chi, Dance, Drawing, Writing, Sculpture, Computer courses for beginners and advanced users, Astrology and Tarot, Basketweaving and French.

New classes are to be included are African Drumming, Clothes Design, and in the winter maybe some Fancy Knitting/Embroidery. There could also be accredited Computer courses and Physical programs to cater for special needs.

The programme of the Open Learning Centre is designed to respond to requests from participants matched with the availability of tutors. Over 150 people have enjoyed learning and meeting new folk in the past two years.

Enrolments for Term One will be on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February, from 10am to 3pm at the Community School room in the Community Centre.

The fees for 1st term, 2006 will be: \$45 - one class, \$65 - two classes, \$80 - three classes. The Term is eight weeks long, commencing 15th February and finishing 5th April.

Watch out for the programme, out late January. Enquiries phone 6689-1477.

The Open Learning Centre is a project of the Nimbin Community School.

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